

*Families, Small Businesses Need Help, BP Needs to be Held Responsible*  
May 12, 2010

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon (LA-03) today released the following statement in response to the White House's proposed Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Legislative Package:

**"We must marshal the full resources of the federal government to help the thousands of Louisiana families and small businesses who are directly threatened by this disaster," said Melancon. "At a minimum, we need to provide assistance to workers who are unable to work because oil intrusions have cut them off from their livelihoods. We should continue to streamline low-interest SBA loans to small businesses who are suffering losses because commercial and recreational fishing waters have been closed"**

**"We know that BP has owned up to their financial responsibility to make this right and I plan to make sure they keep their promise to pay the full cost of cleaning up this mess," Melancon said. "This was a man-made disaster that requires and immediate and robust response and the American taxpayer should not be stuck with the tab."**

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